

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 23, 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. Sunday, March 23rd, 1896. My dear Alec:

It is so nice hearing from you so often and very good of you. It would be lonely without your letters.

I am sorry that you feel like a "Dime Museum Freak". It isn't pleasant. I have had that feeling often enough myself, without the compensations of public admiration which you have had. After all you set out to help the little schools and you certainly probably have done more in this way than by quietly examining them. But I want you home again and I think it is quite time you did good and helped your own family.

Elsie will be here this week, or Thursday the 25th. and I want you home while she is. Mr. and Mrs. Kennan are here. Mr. Kennan is in possession of your study and it is nice to see it open again. I had it all swept and dusted and then covered up tight and shut, but all the wrappings were removed for Mr. Kennan and will stay removed in hopes that you will want the room yourself. Mr. Kennan remains only until tomorrow. Mrs. Kennan some days longer, she seems to be working hard at some paper on the floor by my fire while I write at my desk and Daisy is at church.

Did I tell you about Mr. Mc Dewitt's sending me his new text book on Fonostenography in which he refers to my Atlantic Monthly paper? Mrs. Kennan says that she has heard it referred to even this winter and that she thinks it has helped me a great deal with people as they know better how to talk to me. And she says people have told her that they understand me and thought I understood them much better this winter. I think it is true I have pushed myself more this year than ever before 2 and that my experience in Baddeck

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has given me more self-confidence or made me more callous. — I don't know which Mrs. Kennan said Papa told her that I entertained better than anyone else in Washington. Don't think me getting very vainglorious but I would like to feel that I am not altogether a drawback to you. After all we do need friends and acquaintances. No men can stand alone even the strongest swimmer is all the better for a plank to which he can cling while holding up less expert companions. So that all the things you and I are interested in your Association and the deaf schools and my work in Baddeck will be all the better if we had powerful friends whom we could interest to help us.

Lovingly,yours, Mabel.